Entry of foreign law firms

2484. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to allow entry and operation of foreign legal firms in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the issue of allowing foreign law firms to establish their offices to give legal advice and assistance on foreign law is being discussed with all the stake holders including the Bar Council of India.

Corruption in judiciary system

2485. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Transparency International's Globe Corruption Report, 2007 has mentioned that 77 per cent of the general public has stated the Indian judicial system is corrupt: if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether serious allegations of misconduct/abuse of office against a retired Chief Justice of India have come to the notice of Government; if so, the details thereof and the action initiated thereon;

(c) whether retired Chief Justices/Judges of Supreme Court have commented regarding corruption in judiciary, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) Government's estimate of such corruption?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The Transparency International's Global Corruption Report, 2007 has come to the notice of the Government which, *inter-alia*, states that 77 per cent of the general public has stated the Indian judicial system to be corrupt. The Government, however, does not agree with the said perception.

(b) Yes Sir. The complaint is being looked into by the concerned agencies.

(c) Comments on alleged corruption in the judiciary, especially through the media, have come to the notice of the Government from time to time. To bring in greater accountability in the judiciary, a Bill in this regard had been introduced in the last Lok Sabha.

(d) No estimates in this regard are available on record.